

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PRS-01 L-01 SP-02 RSC-01 /036 W

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P 092245Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8781

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4664

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR CS

SUBJECT: VESCO

REF: STATE 6866

1. NOW THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER HAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION ON THE VESCO EXPULSION QUESTION, WHICH HE WILL FURTHER EXPLAIN TO THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC IN A TV ADDRESS TONIGHT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO VESCO'S MOST FLAGRANT COMMENTS IN HIS SPEECH LAST WEEK. COMPLETE TEXT OF THE VESCO SPEECH WAS POUCHED TO CEN LAST WEEK. THIS WOULD INCLUDE HIS CHARGE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS ROUTINELY GUILTY OF KIDNAPPING DEFENDENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO BRING THEM BACK TO TRIAL, HIS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO EARLIER NARCOTIC CASES IN PERU, BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, ETC (INVOLVING ALSO THE TOSCANIONO CASE); CRITICISMS OF U.S. SYSTEM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (REFTEL) ETC.

2. IF THIS IS TO BE DONE AT ALL, IT MUST BE WELL DONE, AND WE WOULD NEED THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING THE REBUTTAL. IT MIGHT EVEN BE THAT THE REBUTTAL SHOULD BE ISSUED IN WASHINGTON, WHICH WOULD APPEAR LESS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE LOCAL POLITICAL
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ARENA BUT MIGHT ALSO SUFFER THE DISADVANTAGE OF

ATTRACTING LESS ATTENTION HERE.

3. IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD WANT TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE LOCAL SITUATION JUST PRIOR TO RELEASING OUR STATEMENT. IT RUNS THE RISK OF AROUSING THE IRE OF THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT FOR RE-AGITATING THE VESCO ISSUE AT A TIME WHEN HE MAY NOW HOPE TO HAVE PUT IT TO REST.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO USE THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN REFTTEL IN A LOW KEY WAY HERE. THIS IS DIFFICULT IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER, AND COULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY DONE AS PART OF A MORE GENERAL OFFICIAL REBUTTAL AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.

5. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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